



## Frequently Asked Voting Questions

### Do I have to show photo identification before I can vote?

**U** **No.** You do not need a photo ID to vote. Bringing photo identification is the quickest and easiest way to vote and encouraged because this election is likely to be very busy. But, every voter has the option of voting by simply signing an affidavit if they don't have ID with them. **Ultimately, it is your choice whether to sign an affidavit or bring photo ID.**

**U** **First-time voters** may register by mail, but if you do (unless you are over 60, disabled, or residing overseas), you must then either vote in person, or go to your election clerk's office in person to request an absentee ballot.

### What if my name does not appear on the local clerk's list of registered voters?

**U** **Yes you can vote.** Ask for a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot allows you to fill out a ballot and have the county, township or city clerk determine within 6 days whether your ballot can be counted. To ensure that your ballot is counted, you must provide identification to your city, county or township clerk no later than the sixth calendar day after the election.

### Will I automatically get my absentee ballot application in the mail like I used to?

**U** **No.** You can no longer rely on your Clerk mailing you an absentee application because you voted absentee in the previous election. If you need to vote absentee and did not fill out an application for both elections at the time of the August primary, contact your local clerk's office and request an application. (They are also available at <http://lwv.publius.org/help/absentee.asp>)

**All qualified voters present in line at 8:00PM must be permitted to vote.**



## Myths and Facts about Voting

### MYTH

### FACT

If you are currently in jail awaiting a plea or trial, you are not allowed to vote.	In the state of Michigan, if you are in jail awaiting arraignment, plea or trial, you are eligible to obtain an absentee ballot.
If you have served time in jail or prison in the state of Michigan, you forfeit all voting rights.	Michigan allows an individual to vote even if they have been convicted in state or federal court, <b>unless the person is currently incarcerated.</b>
Only English - speaking citizens are qualified to vote.	The Voting Rights Act requires particular polling locations to print ballots and other election materials in languages other than English, and have oral translation help available at polls, where the need exists.
You must finish high school to be eligible to vote in Michigan.	You are eligible to vote if you are: <b>U</b> At least 18 years of age <b>U</b> Not presently incarcerated <b>U</b> A Michigan resident/ citizen of the United States <b>U</b> Registered to vote
I need to show my voter registration card in order to vote.	As long as you are registered, you can either show a photo identification or sign an affidavit in order to vote.
If you are a person with a disability, you may not have someone else read the ballot and record your vote for you.	Michigan law entitles persons with disabilities to reasonable accommodations to enable them to vote, which may include having someone read the ballot. You cannot be denied access to a polling place because of a disability.



## Pay Close Attention When You Hear This...

*"We are investigating voting irregularities. I need to ask you a few questions before I can let you vote."*

*"I can't let you vote because your name does not appear on our lists."*

*"We are out of affidavits, so unless you have valid ID you cannot vote today."*

*"I'm sorry, the voting office is closed for a break."*

*"Did you move since the last election? We don't have your name, so you have to go back to wherever you voted last time."*

*"Do you have a criminal record or any outstanding warrants?"*

*"Are you currently in bankruptcy, owe child support or have any outstanding debts that might have been referred to a collection agency?"*

*"I'm sorry, we don't have the equipment to accommodate your disability, I'm afraid you cannot vote today."*

*"One of our officials will have to accompany you into the voting booth."*

*"The voting equipment is down right now, maybe you should come back later."*

*"You are not able to redo your ballot if you make a mistake."*

*"Who will you be voting for today?"*

**If you hear any of these statements or are not allowed to vote, consult the organizations on the back of this brochure!**



## About the Michigan Department of Civil Rights

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) was established in 1965 to secure the full enjoyment of civil rights guaranteed by law and the State Constitution through the elimination of unlawful discrimination.

MDCR has both jurisdiction and interest in preserving the right of all citizens to participate equally in the voting process regardless of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or disability.



## For Immediate Assistance On Election Day

- U** **FIRST:** contact your city, township or county clerk's office and ask them to help you resolve the problem. If you do not know how to contact your clerk, visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/vote> or call the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 and ask for the phone number to your city, township or county clerk's office.
- U** **SECOND:** contact the Election Protection Coalition at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) or [www.866ourvote.org](http://www.866ourvote.org) and request assistance with resolving your issue.
- U** **THIRD:** contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973. If your local clerk's office is unwilling or unable to resolve the issue, call the Michigan Bureau of Elections and ask them to help you resolve the problem.



## To File A Complaint After The Election

- U** Contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 1-800-482-3604, or visit the website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>
- U** Contact the U.S. Dept. of Justice - Voting Section at 1-800-253-3931, or visit the website <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting>
- U** Contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/sos>

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## Voting Is Not Just A Right, It's A Responsibility!!!

Use this space to make personal notes and bring this pamphlet with you on November 4th!!!

Michigan Department of Civil Rights  
Linda V. Parker, Director



## Michigan Department of Civil Rights

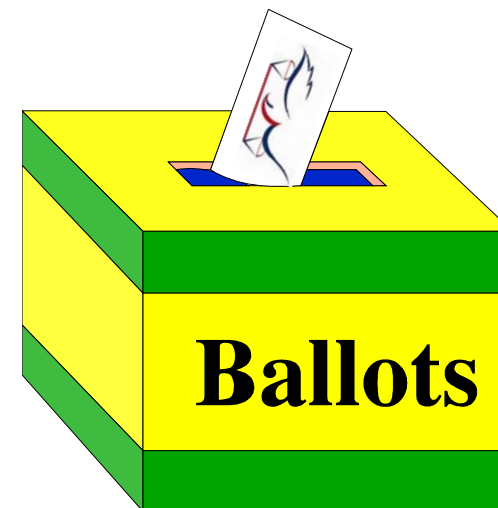
For more information:  
1-800-482-3604  
<http://www.mi.gov/mdcr>  
TTY: (877) 878-8464

## Michigan Department of Civil Rights



# VOTING

*What you should know  
for 2008*



**Register by October 6th  
to Vote November 4th!!!**

- *If you moved to a new city or township, you must re-register to vote.*
- *If you moved within a city or township, you must update your address.*